

How A Dairy Compact Would Have Helped New York State Farmers Over the Past Year

The expiration of the Northeast Dairy Compact in September 2001 threatened the survival of thousands of dairy farmers across the United States. Senator Schumer, along with a number of other Senators, stepped in to create the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program to help insulate small and mid-size dairy farmers across the nation from the tumultuous price swings of the milk market. Over the past 12 months, the MILC program has helped farmers weather these storms, successfully providing New York State farmers with \$85 million in much needed assistance as milk prices have plummeted to historic lows. Unfortunately, the USDA's interpretation of MILC program production caps – instruments originally meant to ensure that small and mid-size farms received the bulk of the assistance – has instead resulted in milk from hundreds of farms across the State not being eligible for millions of dollars in assistance.

To remedy this situation, Senator Schumer is mounting an effort to re-create the Dairy Compact with New York as a member. Unlike the MILC program, the Dairy Compact does not mandate any production caps. As a result, 100% of milk produced in New York State would be covered by its provisions. Had such a system been in place over the last 12 months, New York State farmers would have received \$60 million more in assistance for a total of \$145 million. The following report outlines how much more assistance farms in each county would have received had the Dairy Compact been in place.

The Capital Region: *The 939 dairy farms in the Capital Region received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$6.4 million.*

County	Dairy Farms	Additional Assistance from Compact
Albany	34	\$233,463
Rensselaer	91	\$624,857
Schenectady	10	\$68,665
Saratoga	79	\$524,458
Fulton	60	\$411,993
Montgomery	238	\$1,634,241
Schoharie	156	\$1,071,183
Washington	271	\$1,860,837
Capital Region	939	\$6,429,697

Central New York: The 1,155 dairy farms in Central New York received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$7.9 million.

County	Dairy Farms	Additional Assistance from Compact
Oneida	397	\$2,726,024
Oswego	115	\$789,654
Madison	324	\$2,224,765
Cortland	178	\$1,222,247
Onondaga	141	\$968,185
Central New York	1,155	\$7,930,875

The Finger Lakes: The 1,000 dairy farms in the Finger Lakes received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$6.9 million.

County	Dairy Farms	Additional Assistance from Compact
Cayuga	214	\$1,469,443
Seneca	92	\$631,723
Yates	182	\$1,249,713
Ontario	112	\$769,054
Wayne	103	\$707,255
Monroe	35	\$240,329
Livingston	100	\$686,655
Schuyler	59	\$405,127
Tompkins	103	\$707,255
Finger Lakes	1,000	\$6,866,544

The Hudson Valley: The 422 dairy farms in the Hudson Valley received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$2.9 million.

County	Dairy Farms	Additional Assistance from Compact
Westchester	3	\$20,600
Rockland	0	\$0
Putnam	3	\$20,600
Dutchess	64	\$439,459
Ulster	34	\$233,463
Sullivan	72	\$494,392
Orange	125	\$858,319
Greene	39	\$267,795
Columbia	82	\$563,057
Hudson Valley	422	\$2,897,685

The North Country: The 2,081 dairy farms in the North County received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$14.3 million.

County	Dairy Farms	Additional Assistance from Compact
Warren	1	\$6,866
Essex	35	\$240,329
Clinton	186	\$1,277,180
Franklin	237	\$1,627,374
Hamilton	0	\$0
St Lawrence	584	\$4,010,070
Herkimer	278	\$1,908,903
Lewis	390	\$2,677,958
Jefferson	370	\$2,540,627
North Country	2,081	\$14,289,307

The Southern Tier: The 1,770 dairy farms in the Southern Tier received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$12.2 million.

County	Dairy Farmers	Additional Assistance from Compact
Delaware	267	\$1,833,371
Otsego	324	\$2,224,765
Chenango	319	\$2,190,432
Broome	97	\$666,056
Tioga	148	\$1,016,250
Chemung	57	\$391,393
Steuben	373	\$2,561,226
Allegany	185	\$1,270,313
Southern Tier	1,770	\$12,153,806

***Western New York:** The 1,363 dairy farms in Western New York received millions of dollars in assistance from the MILC program over the past twelve months. If a compact had been in place, however, they would have received an additional \$9.5 million.*

County	Dairy Farmers	Additional Assistance from Compact
Orleans	42	\$288,396
Genesee	117	\$803,387
Wyoming	289	\$1,984,435
Erie	179	\$1,229,114
Niagara	70	\$480,659
Cattaraugus	313	\$2,149,233
Chautauqua	353	\$2,423,895
Western New York	1,363	\$9,539,119